(a) the manner in which arrangements are made by Government for security and maintenance of historical inheritance and places of cultural importance all over the country;

(b) whether expert groups are appointed for these places;

(c) the number of sites identified recently by Government from where historical information are likely to be acquired; and

(d) the initiatives being taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) In addition to the regular Watch & Ward by the staff of Archaeological Survey of India, the State Police, private security and the Central Industrial Security Force have also been deployed for guarding certain selected monuments. The Archaeological Survey of India also carry out regular structural repairs, chemical treatment and environmental development on all protected monuments as per Archaeological norms.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government has identified six promising sites of historical information namely, Arikamedu (Pondicherry), Salimgarh (Delhi), an ancient mound at Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh), Gingee (Tamil Nadu) the ancient site at Thanesar (Haryana) and Sudh Mahadev in Jammu and Kashmir for further excavation in the coming field season.

Rationalisation of Export

4355. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by the DGFT captioned "DGFT for rationalisation of export props post-VAT" which appeared in Indian Express dated the 13th April, 2002;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the details of the schemes which are likely to be simplified/merged; and

(d) what would be the likely implication of these measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Once a national

Value-Added Tax (VAT) system with a single rate is introduced, there would be no need for multiple duty neutralisation schemes. Under the VAT system, it would be possible to rebate all indirect taxes paid by the exporters on the inputs as well as the final products both at the Central and State level. The introduction of national VAT would usher in an era of simple, transparent and automated tax rebates on exports resulting in reduction in transaction time and cost.

Revamping of ITDC Duty Free Shops

4356. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation is revamping its duty-free retail business at Delhi International Airport and is set to launch an exclusive wine corner and perfume and cosmetic boutique;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals that are being worked out;

(c) whether any concrete steps in this regard have been taken;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when it is likely to come under operation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In order to boost up sales and profitability by exploiting the full potential of fast selling items, it has been decided to revamp the ITDC Duty Free Outlet in the first instance at Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi. The works on setting up an exclusive Wine Corner in the main shop and a separate Pefrume & Cosmetic Boutique in the departure lounge are in progress.

(e) The exclusive Wine Corner and Perfume and Cosmetic Boutique are scheduled to be operational by the end of May 2002.

Propagation of Tourism

†4357. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite various efforts, Government have failed to make the historical cities of the country attractive and provide proper facilities and in their propagation;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.